

Fort Des Moines Historic Complex,  
Buildings 14 and 15  
(Officers Quarters, Double Field)  
Des Moines  
Polk County  
Iowa

HABS No. IA-121-B

HABS  
IOWA,  
77-DESMO,  
24-B-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

HABS No. 1A-121-B

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Building Nos. 14-15. Quarters for Two Lieutenants

This double structure, built originally to accommodate two junior grade officers and their families, was completed January 9, 1909, at a cost of \$22,758.97. It stands at the west end of the north side of the parade ground, the sole surviving unit of several officers' quarters that once lined the northern periphery of the post and fronted on Dickman Avenue. This quarters rests on a foundation of rusticated limestone and concrete, is built of red brick joined in running bond by red-pigmented mortar and has a slate roof. Its construction followed standardized drawing 120H approved by the Quartermaster General's office in June, 1907.

Building Nos. 14-15 measures 61 feet 6 inches long. Each half of the unit measures 24 feet 6 inches wide. The front of the building contains ten double hung windows of six over two lights each. In addition, each side contains fifteen more windows, all double hung, with flat segmental arches and limestone lug sills. Sixteen basement windows pierce the foundation. A large porch once extended off either side of the building, their roofs gently hipped. Columns were turned and open spaces beneath the porches were enclosed with latticework. Each half also possessed a roofed back porch. The main roof of the double structure was cross-gabled. All sides have raked cornices with integral gutters, moulded fascia, and returned eaves. Decorative corbeling traces the course of the cornice around the building. A galvanized iron downspout is on the north side. The roof at the rear of the building is hipped. Altogether there were five corbeled chimneys and two ventilators on the roof.

Each half of Building Nos. 14-15 possessed 3246.26 square feet of floor space. Rooms and their dimensions for each half were as follows:

Basement:

Hall, 7' 3" x 45' 5"  
Laundry, 15' 8" x 11' 8"  
Furnace Room, 22' 6" x 14' 8"  
Cool Room, 11' 8" x 5' 4"  
Storeroom, 16' 3" x 13' 2"

First floor:

Hall, 5' x 19' 2"  
Vestibule, 5' x 3' 9"  
Parlor, 16' 5" x 13' 4"  
Dining room, 16' 8" x 15' 3"  
Kitchen, 12' 3" x 16' 2"  
Pantry, 12' 3" x 5' 6"  
Hall, 7' 2" x 40' 2"

Second floor:

Hall, 5' 4" x 22' 1"  
Bedroom, 16' 5" x 13' 8"  
Bedroom, 16' 8" x 15' 3"  
Bedroom, 14' 2" x 12' 3"  
Bathroom, 12' 3" x 5'  
Hall, 7' 2" x 39' 4"

Attic:

Hall, 5' x 12' 3"  
Bedroom, 17' x 13' 2"  
Bathroom, 8' 9" x 13' 2"  
Hall, 7' x 23' 9"

The structure was steam heated and, by the 1920s, had gas ranges and water heaters. Annual repair costs through the years after 1909 averaged around \$60.00 up until 1920. In 1921 and 1922 repairs of an unspecified nature cost approximately \$1000.00 to complete, and in 1932 a hot water boiler was installed in the structure. In November, 1936, the building was redesignated a field officers' quarters, and early the following year a lavatory, shower, and toilet were installed in each half at an expenditure of \$429.41. Building Nos. 14-15 as of 1987 serves the storage needs of the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Science. The exterior of the structure lacks integrity with its porches

gone and its wood cornice deteriorating, although the masonry remains in stable condition. (17)

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17. Card for Building No. 14-15. "Historical Record of Buildings." NA, RG 77, Box 51; Plan, "Quarters for Two Lieutenants," No. 120H, June-December, 1907, February, 1909, 12 sheets. NA, RG 77. Cartographic Archives Division; Field survey notes, February 20-22, 1987.